

**Environmental Protection Agency**

WASHINGTON

June 16, 2017

**DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

TO: White House Cabinet Affairs Communications

FROM: John Konkus

SUBJECT: Communications Update

**Inquiries**

**HQ**

Agri-Pulse (Steve Davies) [Rec'd 6/15] – OPEN – OPP budget. DDL: 6/15. In press box for review.

Bloomberg (Jen Dlouhy) [Received 6/16] – CLOSED 6/16 – Seeking comment on Administrator Pruitt's meetings in March with representatives from the oil and gas industry. Jahan sent response.

BNA (Amena Saiyid) [Rec'd 6/15] – OPEN – Settlements similar to NVR. DDL: 6/15. In press box for review.

CNN (Matthew Egan) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Seeking confirmation and comment regarding Administrator Pruitt's meeting schedule in March at Trump Hotel.

Daily Mail (Daniel Bates) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Asking if EPA has banned reynoband, a chemical connected to the fire in London. Checking with OCSP and ORD. Deadline 2pm today, 6/16

E&E News (Sean Reilly) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Questions regarding EPA strategic plan as posted on the website. DDL 6/19 10AM.

The Hill (Tim Cama) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Seeking statement on Administrator Pruitt's February/March calendar.

Huffington Post (Carey Gillam); Quebec Science (Nicolas Mesly) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Asking for status of glyphosate review. Response with [ [HYPERLINK "mailto:press@epa.gov"](mailto:press@epa.gov) ] for review. Deadline ASAP.

Inside EPA (Stuart Parker) [Received 6/16] – CLOSED 6/16 – Declined to share RFS timing.

The Intercept (Sharon Lerner) [Received 6/16] -- CLOSED 6/16 -- Sent reviewed statement on GenX.

Jalopnik (David Tracy) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Requesting information regarding Fiat Chrysler investigation.

KRGV (Ryan Nelson) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Asking if EPA is considering policy changes regarding a chemical in an anti-Zika pesticide. DDL 6/16.

Law360 (Michael Phillis) [Received 6/15] – OPEN – Seeking statement regarding Henry Darwin serving as the EPA's COO.

Politico (Alex Guillen) [Received 6/16] – OPEN - Asking about EPA withdrawing the coal ash disposal permitting guidance and submitting a new version. With [ [HYPERLINK](#) "mailto:press@epa.gov" \h ] for guidance. Deadline noon today, 6/16

Politico (Eric Wolff) [Received 6/16] – CLOSED 6/16 – Asking if RFS volumes has been held back so President Trump can announce at 6/21 speech. Liz responded.

Reuters (Valerie Volcovi) [Received 6/15] – OPEN – Questions regarding Administrator Pruitt's schedule.

Sacramento Bee (Dale Kasler) [Received 6/15] – OPEN – Seeking comment on possibility of Administrator Pruitt being called to testify in Duarte case.

S&P Global (Brian Scheid) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Asking when the RFS program's proposed 2018 RVOs will be out.

St Louis Public Radio (Ryan Delaney) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Questions regarding meeting with West Lake landfill in Missouri.

Washington Post (Chelsea Harvey) [Rec'd 6/15] – OPEN – STAR 2017 budget. DDL: 6/16 2 11 AM. In press box for review.

Western Livestock Journal (Rae Price) [Received 6/16] – CLOSED 6/16 – Asking for transcript of Administrator Pruitt's comments before House Appropriations. Liz sent link.

Yuma Sun (Blake Herzog) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – Seeking confirmation that Henry Darwin has been named COO for EPA.

## **Region 1**

No new inquiries

## **Region 2**

Bergen Record (Scott Fallon) [06/15] - OPEN - Reporter has questions about a North Jersey District Water Commission report recommending active treatment of groundwater in the vicinity of the Ringwood Mines Superfund site. DDL: 06/16 1PM

CNY Central (Brett Hall) [06/16] - OPEN – EPA's general involvement at Onondaga Lake. DDL: 06/16 3PM

## **Region 3**

No new inquiries

## **Region 4**

Chattanooga Times Free Press (Paul Leach) [Received 6/16] – OPEN – the reporter wants to know if what the Chattanooga Department of Works is doing in a video submitted by a citizen violates any regulations.

## **Region 5**

Chicago Tribune (Michael Hawthorne) [Received 6/15] - OPEN – The reporter has questions on the DuSable cleanup in Chicago. DDL: not specified.

Rubber and Plastic News (Kyle Brown) [Received 6/16] - OPEN – Reporter would like to do a follow up story on the cleanup at the Crest Rubber facility in Alliance, Ohio. DDL: 6/16

WTOV9 Ohio (Kate Davison) [Received 6/16] - CLOSED – Reporter doing a follow up story on the vapor intrusion investigation in Bellaire, Ohio. DDL: 6/16

WIFR TV 23 (Stephanie Pearson) [Received 6/16] - CLOSED – Reporter has questions about our Southeast Rockford grant announcement. DDL: 6/16

## **Region 6**

KRGV ABC (Ryan Nelson), 6/16, OPEN, Zika Spray Concerns, DDL: COB 6/16 wants to know if EPA is considering any policy changes regarding a chemical in an anti-Zika pesticide, based on a new study of health effects:

Corpus Christi Caller-Times (Kirsten Crow) [6/16], CC drinking water, DDL unknown Corpus Christi drinking water crisis from Dec 2016. Follow up story on investigation.

## **Region 7**

No new inquiries

## **Region 8**

Denver Post (Bruce Finley) [Rec'd 6/16] Closed – follow up on Bonita Peak

Flathead Beacon (Tristan Scott) [Rec'd 6/16] OPEN – follow up on Lake Koocanusa MOU.

## **Region 9**

No new inquiries

## **Region 10**

Alaska Business Monthly [Rec'd 06/14] - CLOSED – Writing lengthy piece on waste backhaul programs in remote AK communities.

Inside EPA (Suzanne O'Hannon) [Rec'd 06/15] - OPEN – Pending Hanford Record of Decision could be first signed by the Administrator. Wants background. Working w/program and HQ on response.

KCPQ TV - [Rec'd 06/14] - CLOSED – PEYA Award winner

Catholic Reporter [Rec'd 06/14] - CLOSED – PEYA Award winner

KBNA/Alaska Public Radio Network (Daysha Eaton) [Rec'd 06/14] - CLOSED – Pebble Mine permitting timeline.

KING 5 News (Su Ring) [Rec'd 06/14] - CLOSED – PEYA Award winner.

Snohomish County Tribune (Michael Whitney) [Rec'd 06/14] - CLOSED – PEYA Award winner.

Associated Press Seattle (Phuong Le) [Rec'd 06/14] - CLOSED – EX USS Independence hull cleaing law suit against the Navy. EPA take on the issue? Referring to already publicly available info.

KUOW Seattle Public Radio (Katie Walters) [Rec'd 06/14] - OPEN – Nooksack Tribe drinking water compliance assistance.

Redmond Reporter (Andy Nystrom) [Rec'd 06/14] - CLOSED – PEYA Award winner.

KOMO TV (Cristi Landes) [Rec'd 06/14] - CLOSED PEYA Award winner

Geekwire (Lisa Stiffler) [Rec'd 06/12] - CLOSED – PEYA Award winner

LA Times (Bill Yardley) [Rec'd 06/13] - CLOSED – stakeholder workshop re: climate change impacts on the Duwamish River cleanup. Sent publicly available report on workshop.

## **Top Stories**

[ HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2017/06/16/stories/1060056177>" \h ]  
**Lawmakers press EPA to allow Calif. emissions standards**

[ HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2017/06/16/stories/1060056180>" \h ]  
**EPA weighs carmaker requests for 'off-cycle credits'**

[ HYPERLINK "[http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/06/pruitt\\_denies\\_epa\\_plans\\_to\\_close.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/06/pruitt_denies_epa_plans_to_close.html)" \h ]  
**Pruitt denies EPA plans to close Region 5 office**

[ HYPERLINK "[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/06/16/this-epa-research-program-just-got-a-rave-scientific-review-trump-wants-to-eliminate-it/?utm\\_term=.5b1f373a3e41](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/06/16/this-epa-research-program-just-got-a-rave-scientific-review-trump-wants-to-eliminate-it/?utm_term=.5b1f373a3e41)" \h ]  
**This EPA research program just got a rave scientific review. Trump wants to eliminate it.**

[ HYPERLINK "<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-goes-on-the-defensive-to-play-down-scott-pruitts-meetings-with-industry/article/2626224>" \h ]  
**EPA goes on the defensive to play down Scott Pruitt's meetings with industry**

[ HYPERLINK "<http://www.reuters.com/article/fiatchrysler-emissions-idUSL1N1JD1GL>" \h ]  
**U.S. EPA suspected Fiat Chrysler of using 'defeat device' in 2015**

[ HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/06/16/stories/1060056176>" \h ]  
**Trump campaign aide now deputy at waste office**

[ HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/06/16/stories/1060056173>" \h ]  
**EPA reissues Obama's dental office mercury rule**

[ HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/06/16/stories/1060056163>" \h ]  
**Emails show Pruitt links to fossil fuel industry**

[ HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/06/16/stories/1060056170>" \h ]  
**Republicans push legislation to limit EPA vetoes**

[ HYPERLINK "[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2017/06/16/the-energy-202-epa-s-budget-finds-unexpected-defenders-in-congress/5942d527e9b69b2fb981dd2f/?utm\\_term=.cbdb4513565e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2017/06/16/the-energy-202-epa-s-budget-finds-unexpected-defenders-in-congress/5942d527e9b69b2fb981dd2f/?utm_term=.cbdb4513565e)" \h ]  
**The Energy 202: EPA's budget finds unexpected defenders in Congress**

[ HYPERLINK "<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/338123-epa-head-met-with-numerous-energy-execs>" \h ]

## **EPA head met with multiple energy execs in his first weeks**

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2017/06/15/epa-head-praises-great-lakes-program-his-agencys-budget-eliminates/401576001/" \h](http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2017/06/15/epa-head-praises-great-lakes-program-his-agencys-budget-eliminates/401576001/) ]

### **EPA head praises Great Lakes program his agency's budget eliminates**

[ [HYPERLINK "https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2017/06/16/stories/1060056145" \h](https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2017/06/16/stories/1060056145) ]

### **Pruitt fares better than budget in 1<sup>st</sup> hearing as agency chief**

[ [HYPERLINK "https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/afternoon-energy/2017/06/putting-the-budge-in-epas-budget-023333" \h](https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/afternoon-energy/2017/06/putting-the-budge-in-epas-budget-023333) ]

### **Putting the 'budget' in EPA's budget**

[ [HYPERLINK "https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/zinke-appears-cool-to-fully-rescinding-national-monuments-023335" \h](https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/zinke-appears-cool-to-fully-rescinding-national-monuments-023335) ]

### **Unpacking Pruitt's early days as administrator**

[ [HYPERLINK "https://insideepa.com/daily-news/pruitt-offers-muted-defense-epa-budget-cuts-opening-door-increases" \h](https://insideepa.com/daily-news/pruitt-offers-muted-defense-epa-budget-cuts-opening-door-increases) ]

### **Pruitt offers muted defense of EPA budget cuts, opening door to increases**

[ [HYPERLINK "http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/15/gop-lawmaker-says-native-americans-living-500-years-ago-would-be-out-of-compliance-with-epa-air-rules/" \h](http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/15/gop-lawmaker-says-native-americans-living-500-years-ago-would-be-out-of-compliance-with-epa-air-rules/) ]

### **GOP lawmakers say Native Americans living 500 years ago would be out of compliance with EPA air rules**

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/house-appropriators-assure-pruitt-that-epa-budget-cuts-are-not-going-to-fly/article/2626120" \h](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/house-appropriators-assure-pruitt-that-epa-budget-cuts-are-not-going-to-fly/article/2626120) ]

### **House appropriators assure Pruitt that EPA budget cuts are not going to fly**

[ [HYPERLINK "https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/9391-pruitt-makes-wotus-pledge-at-approps-hearing" \h](https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/9391-pruitt-makes-wotus-pledge-at-approps-hearing) ]

### **Pruitt makes WOTUS pledge at approps hearing**

[ [HYPERLINK](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114381304&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498962000&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0)

["http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=114381304&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498962000&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0" \h](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114381304&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498962000&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0) ]

### **Groups Sue Over EPA Delay of Chemical Plant Safety Rules**

[ [HYPERLINK](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114381322&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498974500&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0)

["http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=114381322&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498974500&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0" \h](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114381322&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498974500&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0) ]

### **GOP Bill Attempts to Revoke EPA's Water Act Veto Authority**

[ [HYPERLINK](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114381294&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498960000&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0)

["http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=114381294&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498960000&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0" \h](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114381294&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498960000&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0) ]

### **No Region Shakeup or Staff Layoffs, EPA's Pruitt Says**

[ [HYPERLINK](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114381312&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498971500&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0)

["http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=114381312&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498971500&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0" \h](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114381312&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498971500&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0) ]

### **EPA Approves Dow, Monsanto Gene-Silencing Tech to Fight Pests**

[ HYPERLINK

"http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split\_display.adp?fedfid=114381305&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=498969500&searchid=30056084&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0" \h ]

**Trump Spurs Bipartisanship as Lawmakers Vow to Stop EPA Cuts**

[ HYPERLINK "https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-06-15/trump-spurs-bipartisanship-as-lawmakers-vow-to-stop-his-epa-cuts" \h ]

**Lawmakers Vow to Stop Trump's EPA Cuts**

[ HYPERLINK

"http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\_EPA\_PRUITT\_EMAILS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT" \h ]

**Emails reiterate EPA chief's ties to fossil fuel interests**

[ HYPERLINK "http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-biofuels-expectations-idUSKBN19704O" \h ]

**U.S. EPA expected to unveil renewable fuel plan as soon as this week: sources**

## **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

Continued to work with regional offices to maximize EPA press announcements of grant funding for EPA work across the country.